Pension scheme for National Awardees

1085. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of people conferred with national awards, including 'Bharat Ratna', are languishing in penury;

(b) if so, whether Government have received representations from such awardees, or on their behalf, for financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, with nature of assistance, if any rendered;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted to identify the needy national awardees;

(e) whether Government propose to set up monthly pension scheme, etc., on the lines of "Freedom Fighter Pension";

(f) if so, the details in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Government has not received request from any person who has been awarded Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan or Padma Shri for financial assistance on the grounds of penury.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) No Such proposal is presently under consideration.

(g) Padma Awards are amongst the highest civilian honour given in recognition of exceptional or distinguished service in any field. The Awards do not carry any financial benefit. Padma Awards have a unique aura and prestige of their own and it may not be appropriate to evaluate these Awards in monetary terms.